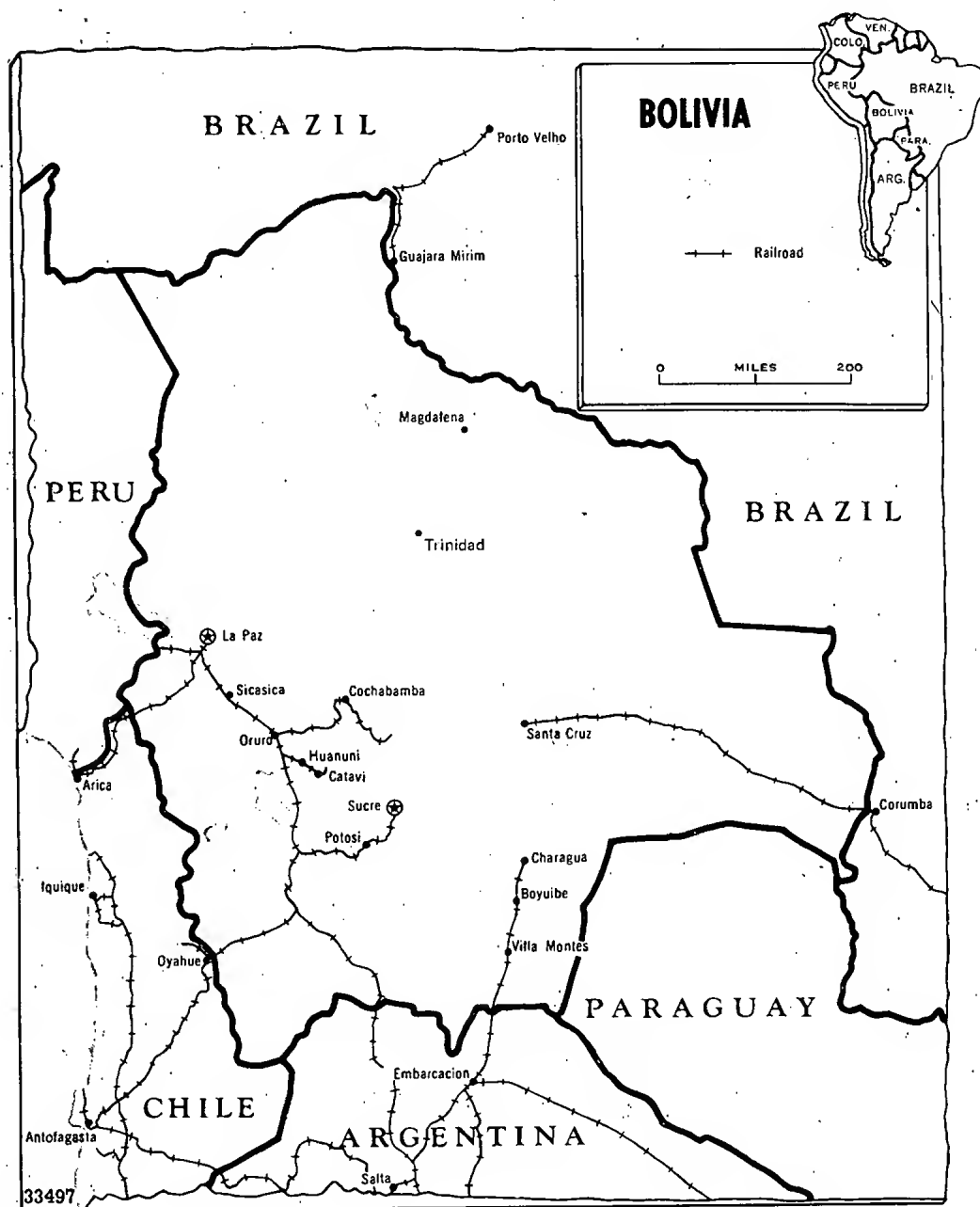


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

9 DECEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~



LATE ITEM

Bolivia

a. A Red Cross team has arrived at Catavi and met with Vice President Juan Lechin, the extremist leader, and some of the hostages but has failed to reach any agreement on their release.

b. The miners are holding a total of 21 hostages including Canadian, Swedish, West German, Dutch, and UN personnel.

c. President Paz has told our ambassador that Lechin, by going to Catavi, has accepted responsibility for the detention of the hostages and the consequences to the miners.

d. He said Lechin is now in a dilemma. If Lechin releases the hostages he will face the hostility of his supporters. If he does not he will risk national and international opprobrium for violation of criminal law.

e. The press reports the miners will start a series of strikes today at the 25 mines run by the government. Paz says if the miners go through with it they will lose all year end income and bonuses.

(Cont'd)

f. Paz considers unlikely the possibility that Lechin will opt for civil war, but we are not so sure.

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g. The Bolivian President said the government would make every effort to avoid bloodshed and in "the next few days" will use all pressure devices short of military action. This may imply postponement of tomorrow's paratroop drop in the Catavi area.



GEN. THANOM KITTIKACHORN

1. Thailand

a. The King has named Thanom Kittikachorn Premier and it looks as though there will be an orderly transfer of power for the short term.

b. General Thanom, who was Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense, had been regarded as the likely temporary successor and had been earmarked for the job by Sarit as early as 1960.

c. The new premier had been closely associated with his predecessor since the 1957 coup which brought Sarit to power.

d. Thanom is respected as an honest professional officer untainted by corruption and aloof from the various political machinations of his colleagues. But, because of this he has no strong personal following.

e. He is a compromise candidate whose choice advances the cause of no political group.

f. Thanom is not expected to depart from Sarit's policies. However, his stay at the helm may well be a short one.

(Cont'd)

g. [redacted]

[redacted] the military group which vetted his appointment consider it to be temporary only. Their aim was to set up a caretaker government which would meet US approval.

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2. Turkey-Cyprus

a. The Turkish cabinet has decided to reject President Makarios' proposals for amendment of the Cypriot constitution "definitely and publicly."

b. A public reply by the Turks will put Makarios on the spot among his fellow Greek Cypriots and further raise the tension on Cyprus.

c. If Makarios should now decide, as he has threatened, to resort to unilateral revision of the constitution, serious trouble could erupt between the Greek and Turkish communities.

d. Partition of the island--a last ditch, vastly complicated solution--might again become an active issue.

3. Laos

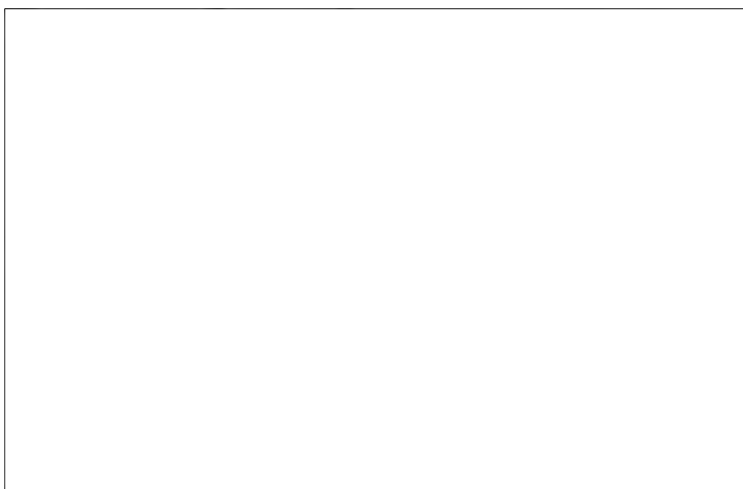
a. Both rightist chief Phoumi and neutralist leader Kong Le seem to be puffed up with their recent successes against the Pathet Lao and eager to push their luck further.

b. Kong Le says he will no longer personally meet with Pathet Lao representatives in truce talks. Phoumi says his troops' move toward the road junction at Lak Sao will probably bring them up against North Vietnamese regulars.

c. Phoumi expressed confidence his forces could handle the North Vietnamese. We think he is talking through his hat.

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4. France- Cambodia



(Cont'd)

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5. Italy

a. Security officials continue to have their troubles with extremist groups favoring increased autonomy for the largely German speaking South Tirol. The trial of about 100 alleged terrorists due to open today in Milan could spark terrorist acts there and in Turin and Genoa.

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6. Brazil

a. Last Saturday, former Navy Minister Sylvio Heck, one of the rightist leaders, attacked President Goulart in a bitter television speech.

b. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this speech was intended to provoke federal authorities into counteraction against Heck. The plotters hoped that such federal measures would in time rally anti-Goulart forces to them.

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c. The prospects for a successful coup by this group of rightists are not too bright at this time. However, the Brazilian political situation is so unstable that any serious incident could have far-reaching repercussions.

7. Argentina

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NOTES

- A. Mexico - Communist China We look for the Chinese to exploit their trade fair for all its worth in order to gain an acceptability previously lacking in Mexico. The fair opened Saturday in Mexico City. Many influential Mexican intellectuals favor relations with Communist countries, and Mexican economic leaders are anxious to broaden Mexican access to world markets.
- B. France - Eastern Europe Paris has decided to raise the level of its legations in Rumania, Hungary, and Bulgaria to embassies. This follows a similar move by London last week.
- C. USSR Khrushchev was still talking to the central committee plenum as of the time we went to press this morning. Early reports indicate that he concentrated on the economy in the first section of his address.